

ALS MILITARY STUDIES PRACTICE TEST (SAMPLE)

STUDY GUIDE



SAMPLE STUDY GUIDE WITH LIMITED QUESTIONS

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Introduction

Preparing for a certification exam can feel overwhelming, but with the right tools, it becomes an opportunity to build confidence, sharpen your skills, and move one step closer to your goals. At Examzify, we believe that effective exam preparation isn't just about memorization, it's about understanding the material, identifying knowledge gaps, and building the test-taking strategies that lead to success.

This guide was designed to help you do exactly that.

Whether you're preparing for a licensing exam, professional certification, or entry-level qualification, this book offers structured practice to reinforce key concepts. You'll find a wide range of multiple-choice questions, each followed by clear explanations to help you understand not just the right answer, but why it's correct.

The content in this guide is based on real-world exam objectives and aligned with the types of questions and topics commonly found on official tests. It's ideal for learners who want to:

- Practice answering questions under realistic conditions,
- Improve accuracy and speed,
- Review explanations to strengthen weak areas, and
- Approach the exam with greater confidence.

We recommend using this book not as a stand-alone study tool, but alongside other resources like flashcards, textbooks, or hands-on training. For best results, we recommend working through each question, reflecting on the explanation provided, and revisiting the topics that challenge you most.

Remember: successful test preparation isn't about getting every question right the first time, it's about learning from your mistakes and improving over time. Stay focused, trust the process, and know that every page you turn brings you closer to success.

Let's begin.

How to Use This Guide

This guide is designed to help you study more effectively and approach your exam with confidence. Whether you're reviewing for the first time or doing a final refresh, here's how to get the most out of your Examzify study guide:

1. Start with a Diagnostic Review

Skim through the questions to get a sense of what you know and what you need to focus on. Your goal is to identify knowledge gaps early.

2. Study in Short, Focused Sessions

Break your study time into manageable blocks (e.g. 30 – 45 minutes). Review a handful of questions, reflect on the explanations.

3. Learn from the Explanations

After answering a question, always read the explanation, even if you got it right. It reinforces key points, corrects misunderstandings, and teaches subtle distinctions between similar answers.

4. Track Your Progress

Use bookmarks or notes (if reading digitally) to mark difficult questions. Revisit these regularly and track improvements over time.

5. Simulate the Real Exam

Once you're comfortable, try taking a full set of questions without pausing. Set a timer and simulate test-day conditions to build confidence and time management skills.

6. Repeat and Review

Don't just study once, repetition builds retention. Re-attempt questions after a few days and revisit explanations to reinforce learning. Pair this guide with other Examzify tools like flashcards, and digital practice tests to strengthen your preparation across formats.

There's no single right way to study, but consistent, thoughtful effort always wins. Use this guide flexibly, adapt the tips above to fit your pace and learning style. You've got this!

Questions

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- 1. What did the Goldwater-Nichols Reorganization Act of 1986 require?**
 - A. The President to report regularly to Congress and the American people on the National Security Strategy
 - B. A reduction in defense spending
 - C. The dissolution of the Joint Chiefs
 - D. The creation of a separate armed service for cyber
- 2. Which role is explicitly listed as controlling the Administrative Branch?**
 - A. President of the United States, Secretary of Defense/Chairman
 - B. The Combatant Commanders
 - C. The Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff
 - D. The Director of National Intelligence
- 3. Who designates a Combatant Command?**
 - A. The President through the Secretary of Defense with the advice and assistance of the CJCS
 - B. Congress
 - C. The National Security Council
 - D. The Secretary of Defense alone
- 4. In the two-chain model, the Operational Branch is controlled by which group?**
 - A. The Combatant Commanders
 - B. The President of the United States
 - C. The Secretary of Defense
 - D. The Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff
- 5. What are the three levels of leadership development in the Army's training doctrine?**
 - A. Direct leadership development focuses on immediate, on-the-job tasks
 - B. Tactical, operational, and strategic levels
 - C. Direct, organizational, and strategic
 - D. Local, regional, and national leadership development

- 6. What is the main aim of conserving force in campaign planning?**
- A. To preserve combat power and resources to ensure decisive capability at the proper time
 - B. To increase civilian casualties
 - C. To maximize long-term weariness
 - D. To rely on out-of-area reserves
- 7. Which of the following best defines a Combatant Command?**
- A. A command with a broad continuing mission under a single commander and composed of significant components from two or more Military Departments, established by the President through the Secretary of Defense with CJCS advice
 - B. A unit within a single military department
 - C. A temporary coalition for humanitarian missions
 - D. A training organization for joint operations
- 8. Which level is primarily associated with national policy decisions integrated into defense policy?**
- A. Strategic Warfare
 - B. Operational Warfare
 - C. Tactical Warfare
 - D. Nuclear Task Force
- 9. In mission command, what concept is emphasized to empower subordinates besides clear intent and mission-type orders?**
- A. Centralized control
 - B. Initiative
 - C. Detailed instructions
 - D. Standard procedures
- 10. Which of the following describes a NOT directly affected by weather and terrain in military operations?**
- A. Movement, visibility, endurance, and sector risk
 - B. Morale
 - C. Supply costs
 - D. Medical readiness

Answers

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1. A
2. A
3. A
4. A
5. C
6. A
7. A
8. A
9. B
10. C

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Explanations

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1. What did the Goldwater-Nichols Reorganization Act of 1986 require?

- A. The President to report regularly to Congress and the American people on the National Security Strategy
- B. A reduction in defense spending
- C. The dissolution of the Joint Chiefs
- D. The creation of a separate armed service for cyber

The main idea being tested is how the Goldwater-Nichols Reorganization Act of 1986 linked national policy to military planning by requiring regular, formal reporting on the National Security Strategy. This provision creates a clear, ongoing channel for the President to outline national security goals and for Congress and the public to see how military planning aligns with those goals. The act itself focused on strengthening civilian control and jointness within the Defense Department, reorganizing the chain of command, and improving interservice coordination—not on cutting defense spending, dissolving the Joint Chiefs, or creating a separate cyber service.

2. Which role is explicitly listed as controlling the Administrative Branch?

- A. President of the United States, Secretary of Defense/Chairman
- B. The Combatant Commanders
- C. The Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff
- D. The Director of National Intelligence

Civilian control over the armed forces rests with the President and the Department of Defense. The President, as Commander in Chief, holds the ultimate authority over military matters, while the Secretary of Defense is responsible for the administrative running of the Department of Defense. The Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff is the senior military adviser, not the administrator over the branch. Combatant Commanders have operational control of forces, not administrative control, and the Director of National Intelligence heads the intelligence community, not military administration. So the roles that are explicitly tied to controlling the Administrative Branch are the President and the civilian-military leadership within the DoD (Secretary of Defense, with the Chairman as the senior adviser).

3. Who designates a Combatant Command?

- A. The President through the Secretary of Defense with the advice and assistance of the CJCS
- B. Congress
- C. The National Security Council
- D. The Secretary of Defense alone

Designating a Combatant Command is a presidential responsibility carried out through the Secretary of Defense, with the advice and assistance of the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. The President, as Commander in Chief, has the authority to organize, train, and assign forces, and the Secretary of Defense implements that direction. The CJCS contributes by providing military advice, options, and assessments to inform the designation decision. Congress does not designate CCMDs, and while the National Security Council helps with policy coordination, it does not authorize or designate combatant commands. This structure ensures civilian control of the military while leveraging the Secretary of Defense's and the CJCS's expertise in shaping how unified commands are organized and commanded.

4. In the two-chain model, the Operational Branch is controlled by which group?

- A. The Combatant Commanders**
- B. The President of the United States
- C. The Secretary of Defense
- D. The Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff

The key idea here is that in the two-chain model, operational control of forces rests with the Combatant Commanders, who exercise OPCON over assigned forces. The President, as Commander-in-Chief, and the Secretary of Defense retain civilian oversight and authority to authorize actions, but day-to-day operations are directed through the Combatant Commanders. The Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff serves as the senior military adviser, not as the operational commander of forces. This separation keeps operational leadership with those who head the unified commands, rather than with the advisory staff, ensuring a clear line of action for executing missions.

5. What are the three levels of leadership development in the Army's training doctrine?

- A. Direct leadership development focuses on immediate, on-the-job tasks
- B. Tactical, operational, and strategic levels
- C. Direct, organizational, and strategic**
- D. Local, regional, and national leadership development

The three levels of leadership development in Army doctrine are direct, organizational, and strategic. Direct leadership focuses on influencing soldiers and small teams through close, face-to-face guidance, coaching, and day-to-day task supervision. Organizational leadership expands that influence to the wider unit and institution, shaping climate, culture, teams, and processes to enable mission success. Strategic leadership operates at the highest level, guiding long-term vision, resource alignment, and policy decisions that affect the larger force and beyond. This framework is the standard way the Army describes developing leaders across different scopes of responsibility. The other options describe warfare levels or geographic scope rather than how leaders are developed across different spans of influence.

6. What is the main aim of conserving force in campaign planning?

- A. To preserve combat power and resources to ensure decisive capability at the proper time**
- B. To increase civilian casualties
- C. To maximize long-term weariness
- D. To rely on out-of-area reserves

Conserving force means keeping enough fighting power and essential resources intact so you can apply them with decisive effect at the right moment. In campaign planning, this requires disciplined allocation and restraint—don't exhaust your strength on less critical actions, maintain supply lines and personnel readiness, and keep reserves to exploit a turning point when the opportunity for a decisive victory appears. The aim is not to wear down or unnecessarily endanger civilians or to drift into prolonged attrition, but to be able to mass superior force where and when it matters most. Reserves can support this, but the core goal is preserving the capacity to deliver decisive capability at the proper time.

7. Which of the following best defines a Combatant Command?

- A. A command with a broad continuing mission under a single commander and composed of significant components from two or more Military Departments, established by the President through the Secretary of Defense with CJCS advice
- B. A unit within a single military department
- C. A temporary coalition for humanitarian missions
- D. A training organization for joint operations

A Combatant Command is a unified command with a broad, continuing mission under a single commander and composed of significant forces from two or more Military Departments, established by the President through the Secretary of Defense with the advice of the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. This structure establishes joint, interdepartmental authority for major operations and ensures a single point of command for enduring missions, spanning more than one service. A unit within a single military department doesn't meet the requirement of cross-service forces and a unified command. A temporary coalition for humanitarian missions is typically ad hoc and multinational, not a standing DoD command established with CJCS advisory input. A training organization for joint operations focuses on education and readiness, not command and control of an ongoing operational mission.

8. Which level is primarily associated with national policy decisions integrated into defense policy?

- A. Strategic Warfare
- B. Operational Warfare
- C. Tactical Warfare
- D. Nuclear Task Force

The main idea here is that national policy decisions are woven into defense planning at the strategic level. This level handles long-range goals, overall aims, and how to use national power to achieve them—setting deterrence posture, alliances, and the allocation of resources. Defense policy is built from those political choices and translated into a plan for the entire armed forces. The operational level then turns those strategic aims into campaigns and major operations, while the tactical level handles battlefield actions. A nuclear task force is a specialized capability, not a level of warfare.

9. In mission command, what concept is emphasized to empower subordinates besides clear intent and mission-type orders?

- A. Centralized control
- B. Initiative
- C. Detailed instructions
- D. Standard procedures

Initiative. In mission command, leaders give a clear intent and mission-type orders, then empower subordinates to act on their own judgment within that framework. This disciplined initiative lets teams respond quickly to changing conditions, exploit opportunities, and maintain tempo without waiting for step-by-step directions. The empowerment rests on trust, training, and a shared understanding of the desired end state and acceptable risk. Centralized control would curb flexibility and slow response by keeping decisions at higher levels. Detailed instructions prescribe every step, leaving little room for adaptation. Standard procedures provide routine responses but don't cover unique or evolving situations, so they don't enable the same level of proactive, autonomous action.

10. Which of the following describes a NOT directly affected by weather and terrain in military operations?

- A. Movement, visibility, endurance, and sector risk
- B. Morale
- C. Supply costs
- D. Medical readiness

Weather and terrain directly shape how troops move, what they can see, how long they can operate, and the level of risk in a given area. They also influence morale and medical readiness because tough conditions increase fatigue, stress, and the chance of illness or injury. Supply costs, while they can rise due to weather and terrain, are not a direct, immediate effect of those conditions. They are a logistics outcome—driven by delays, detours, fuel use, vehicle wear, and the need for additional transport—rather than a direct battlefield condition like movement, visibility, endurance, or risk.

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Next Steps

Congratulations on reaching the final section of this guide. You've taken a meaningful step toward passing your certification exam and advancing your career.

As you continue preparing, remember that consistent practice, review, and self-reflection are key to success. Make time to revisit difficult topics, simulate exam conditions, and track your progress along the way.

If you need help, have suggestions, or want to share feedback, we'd love to hear from you. Reach out to our team at hello@examzify.com.

Or visit your dedicated course page for more study tools and resources:

<https://alsmilitarystudies.examzify.com>

We wish you the very best on your exam journey. You've got this!

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